

Table 1
Health Care Resources

	County	Region	State
Persons per Primary Care Physician	2,422	1,776	1,053
Persons per Nurse Practitioner	9,687	7,429	7,134
Persons per Physician Assistant	19,374	15,053	18,664
Persons per Registered Nurse	274	178	106
Persons 10-44 per OB/GYN	7,202	4,509	2,100
Persons per Dentist	3,633	2,414	1,186
Persons per staffed hospital bed	1,264	491	245
Percent occupancy in community hospitals	53.0	57.3	57.7
Persons per staffed nursing home bed	173	119	135
Percent occupancy in community nursing homes	97.6	96.4	93.6
Physician shortage area for OB	YES		
Physician shortage area for Primary Care	YES		

Note: Manpower data are 1996; shortage areas, 1995; facilities, 1994.

Hospitals	# Beds	Nursing Homes	# Beds
Ft Sanders Sevier Medical Center---	79	Ft. Sanders Sevier Medical Center Nursing Home-----	54
		Royal Care of Pigeon Forge-----	120
		Sevier County Health Care Center, Inc.-----	149

B. County Process—Overview

The Assessment Process

The Tennessee Department of Health has made a strong commitment to strengthening the performance of the public health system in performing those population-based functions that support the overall health of Tennesseans: assessment, assurance, and policy development.

Community Diagnosis is a public-private partnership to define the county's priority health problems and to develop strategies for solving these problems. The Sevier County Health Improvement Council in collaboration Covenant Health and the Tennessee Department of Health conducted an extensive assessment of the status of health in Sevier County. The health council contains community representatives from various geographic locations, social-economic levels, and ethnic groups. Extensive amounts of both primary and secondary data were collected and reviewed as the first step in the process. Major issues of concern identified by the community were perception and knowledge of health problems, which were important factors in analyzing the data. Council members identified major issues of concern and each issue was ranked according to size, seriousness, and effectiveness of interventions (Table 7).

Resources

The Sevier County Health Improvement Council is focusing on identifying existing resources. Cooperation of various agencies could allow redirection of such resources to target identified priorities. Sevier County Health Improvement Council is seeking these additional resources for the development and implementation of intervention programs for priorities identified through the Community Diagnosis process.